

## Message Text

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61

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EUR-12 SCS-03 SCA-01 /077 W  
----- 126698

R 031115Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2731

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1500

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJ: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

REF: A) VIENTIANE 1326

B) VIENTIANE 1467

1. EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 28 DISPATCHED LETTER CONCERNING DEAN/SHARMAN CASE TO AMBASSADOR OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. LETTER DREW ATTENTION TO XAT LAO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, DATED FEBRUARY 26, BASED ON INTERVIEW BY EDITOR PHON CHANTHARATH WITH KHAMMOUY (REPORTED REF A) AND REFERRED TO MOVEMENT OF DEAN/SHARMAN THROUGH DRV EN ROUTE TO SAM NEUA. DRV EMBASSY RETURNED LETTER MARCH 3 WITH A PRESS COMMUNIQUE IN FRENCH DATED FEBRUARY 27 WHICH REFUTES THE ALLEGATION IN THE XAT LAO INTERVIEW.

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2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER:

A. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER: QUOTE - I HAVE THE HONOR TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE FROM THE FEBRUARY 26 ISSUE OF THE NEWSPAPER XAT LAO WHICH CONTAINS A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT CHARLES DEAN, A MISSING AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND HIS TRAVELING COMPANION NEIL SHARMAN, AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN, WERE TURNED OVER TO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AUTHORITIES BY NEO LAO HAK SAT AUTHORITIES ON DECEMBER 1, 1974. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AUTHORITIES WERE TO TRANSFER MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN TO SAM NEUA BY WAY OF HA TINH PROVINCE AND HANOI.

B. QUOTE - AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, MY GOVERNMENT IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE TWO YOUTHS, AND WE HAVE SOUGHT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO DETERMINE THEIR STATUS FROM THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. IN LIGHT OF THIS LATEST INFORMATION I WOULD LIKE TO SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHETHER MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN HAVE IN FACT BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OR THROUGH NORTH VIETNAM. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) UNQUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EMBASSY'S FORMAL TRANSLATION OF DRV EMBASSY'S PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

A. BEGIN TEXT OF DRV EMBASSY PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

QUOTE - IN ITS FEBRUARY 26, 1975 ISSUE, THE DAILY XAT LAO PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN TOURISTS. IN THIS ARTICLE WERE INSERTED INSINUATING ALLEGATIONS AIMING TO SLANDER THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

B. QUOTE - AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, VIET-NAM AND LAOS, RECENTLY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING. THIS INFORMATION CREATED OUT OF THIN AIR ONLY SERVES TO HARM THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

C. QUOTE - THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

VIET-NAM IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS HASTENS TO REFUTE CATEGORICALLY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ALLEGATIONS (WHICH) ARE DEVOID OF ANY FOUNDATION. END OF PRESS COMMUNIQUE - CONFIDENTIAL

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UNQUOTE.

4. AMBASSADOR ALSO SENT A SIMILAR LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT REFERRING TO THE XAT LAO ARTICLE AND REQUESTED CONTINUED INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER.

5. WE ARE PREPARING ANOTHER LETTER TO THE FOREIGN

MINISTER WHICH ADDRESSES PHOUMI VONGVICHIT'S LETTER OF  
FEBRUARY 28 (REF B), POINTING OUT INCONCLUSIVENESS OF  
ALLEGED INVESTIGATION BY LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT AND URGING  
CONTINUED INVESTIGATION. DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED  
SEPTEL.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, DETENTION, PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 VIENTIANE 1326  
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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
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**Review Date:** 30 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEAN/SHARMAN CASE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CASC, LA, US, AS, (SHARMAN, NEIL), (DEAN, CHARLES M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006